

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 203186  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:PWLANDE:EI  
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:PWLANDE  
-----063207 260325Z /73

R 251944Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS STATE 203186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NP

SUBJECT: KORAILA TELEVISION INTERVIEW

1. KORAILA APPEARED FOR HALF-HOUR INTERVIEW ON THE MACNEIL LEHRER PROGRAM ON PBS. HE STATED THAT HE INTENDED TO RETURN TO NEPAL IN ORDER TO KEEP FAITH WITH THE KING AND BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE "WINDS OF CHANGE" WERE COMING TO NEPAL AS THEY HAD COME TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM WHEN HE RETURNED BUT, AS A POLITICAL GESTURE, HE MIGHT NOT BE SENT BACK TO PRISON. IF HE WERE FREED, HE WOULD SEEK TO BRING ABOUT A NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF A DEMOCRATIC REGIME.

2. KORAILA CHARACTERIZED THE KING AS A "WELL MEANING PERSON" WHO HAD PERHAPS BEEN FORCED BY THE WINDS OF CHANGE TO LET HIM LEAVE NEPAL FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. HE STATED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NEPAL HAD BEEN "VERY BAD" BUT WAS NOW "NOT AS BAD." WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE CONTINUED, HE REPLIED  
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AFFIRMATIVELY STATING THAT AID TO THE POOR WAS GOOD AND THE USG SHOULD NOT ATTACH STRINGS TO SUCH AID.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION KORAILA STATED THAT HE HAD NOT WRITTEN PRESIDENT CARTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT. PEOPLE HAD WRITTEN ON HIS BEHALF. HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT SINCE SUCH A MEETING WOULD GIVE A BOOST TO

DEMOCRACY IN NEPAL AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE  
PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS WAS NOT LIMITED TO  
THE SOVIET UNION. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** SOPN  
**To:** KATHMANDU  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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